

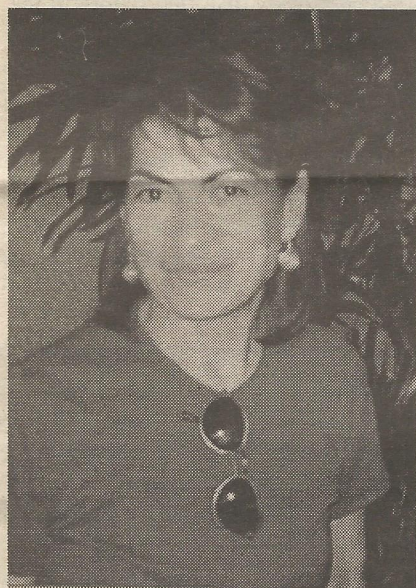
# FREEDOM!!!!!!

## OUT OF TIME

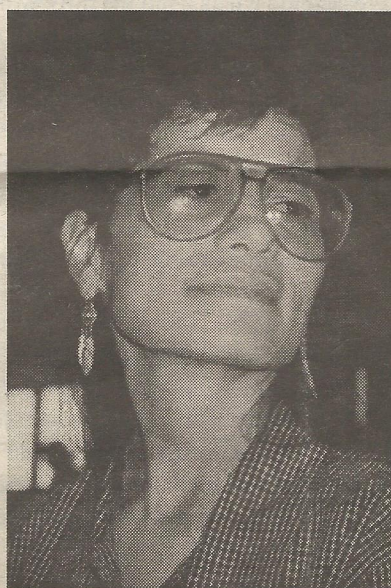
Issue No. 49

Out of Control--Lesbian Committee to Support Women Political Prisoners

Sept 1999



Alicia Rodríguez at SFO Airport



Lucy Rodríguez at SFO Airport



Dylcia Pagan After Her Release



Supporters Welcome Carmen Valentin and Denise Alvarado

### I always knew that I was Puerto Rican...

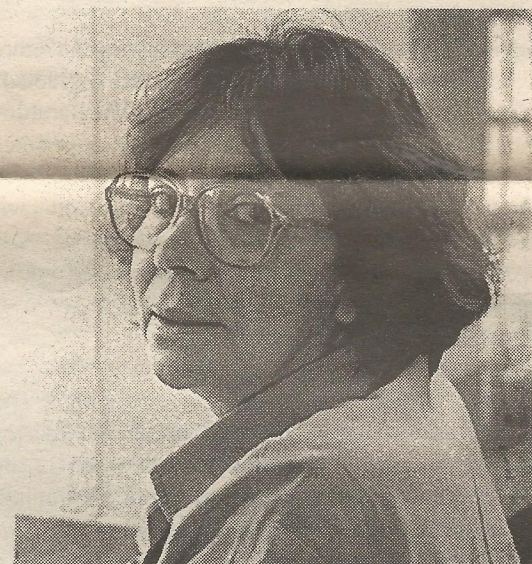
by Denise Alvarado

...But here on the West Coast there isn't a real community of my people, such as in New York and Chicago. I've spent many years trying to find others like myself, Puerto Ricans born in the United States, and during this search, 4 years ago at an event commemorating "El Grito de Lares", an uprising against Spanish rule on the island back in 1868, I saw a table full of information about 15 Puerto Rican political prisoners. They were in prison for seditious conspiracy and other related charges and had received sentences as long as 105 years! That was not OK. I didn't need to know the details just then. I just imagined my people sitting in prison cells for years and years with very little human warmth in their lives and that I needed to do something to change that. They were my people and I could not turn away. I immediately wrote every single one of them and got involved in the amnesty campaign to free these men and women. I had no idea that it was going to be the most meaningful, rewarding thing I'd ever done in my life.

During these years I had several memorable experiences. I became friends with Adolfo Matos, Carmen Valentin, Antonio Camacho, Ricardo Jimenez, Oscar Lopez, and Alberto Rodriguez. Adolfo was the first one I visited, actually the first one who reached out in friendship and told me what some of their needs were, such as visits and money for the phone and commissary. He was the one who clinched it and drew me in tight. I did start visiting Carmen and it was "love at first sight" for the both of us. We became fast friends instantly. I visited Antonio and Alberto in Pennsylvania and I visited Oscar when he was less than 1 month out of isolation, 12 years in a control unit. As I got to know them their release became even more important. I knew they were people of character and principles. Besides that, I loved my friends.

Last week, September 10<sup>th</sup>, they finally were released under parole conditions. It was hard times leading up to it since the conditions were so strict and criminalized the movement, in their eyes. But to all of Puerto Rico, to their friends and their family, they are heroes. They understood how much it meant to their loved ones and supporters that they come home and most of them agreed to the terms of parole. It was touch and

Cont'd on page 4 OOT



Alejandrina Torres at Danbury FCI

### THE DAY BEFORE MY 14TH BIRTHDAY

by Max Forman-Mullin:

I've been visiting Lucy Rodríguez in the Dublin Women's Prison since I was four years old. The Puerto Rican prisoners have been in prison longer than I've been alive. I visited Lucy and Alicia the night before their release; all four Puerto Rican women and Marilyn Buck were in the visiting room. Not knowing exactly when they were going to be released, I thought this was my last chance to say goodbye. When we got home later that night, I found out that the prisoners would probably be getting out the next day and I was offered the chance to ride with them upon their release. I felt really glad that I was going to be able to see them again, and I wanted to be able to support them after their 19 years in prison.

Friday morning we were all very anxious. We met at the prison at about eight and waited until after one o'clock. They wouldn't tell us when the prisoners were getting out. It was hot and we were tired and hungry. We could see other prisoners out on the lawn; we waved to them and then the guards made them leave.

Cont'd on page 4 OOT



Out of Time  
c/o Out of Control Lesbian Committee  
3543-18th Street, Box 30  
San Francisco, CA 94110  
e-mail: outoftime@igc.org





Silvia arrives in Rome

## AFTER 17 YEARS IN US PRISONS SILVIA BARALDINI RETURNS TO ITALY

August 24, 1999, New York. Following an emotional appearance in court, in which she was warmly greeted by an overflowing courtroom of supporters, Silvia Baraldini was taken under heavily armed escort to an airport in Teterboro, NJ for her flight home to Italy. She was met in Rome by hundreds of cheering supporters who carried signs with her image and threw red roses as her escort passed by. A similar crowd awaited her at Rebibbia, the prison in Rome where, according to the agreement signed, she will serve out the remainder of her sentence.

This is a victory. This indicates a step forward. The hard work of Silvia's attorney, Elizabeth Fink, & the American and Italian Committees, and the support of thousands of supporters in Italy and the US has been successful. Silvia has been returned to Italy. Able to wear civilian clothes and to walk, at least temporarily (upon her arrival), outside of a prison without handcuffs and shackles, Silvia was elated.

However, Silvia is still inside, she is a political prisoner and so our work continues. She is in a high security unit and is not eligible for work release. Our web site is active and includes pictures taken in Rome and we will be reporting news from Silvia at Rebibbia. Now, we will continue to organize support for Silvia and campaign for her eventual release. Immediately, you can write to Silvia. Let her know that although she is far away from her American supporters, she is not forgotten. She would appreciate news from a variety of people.

On behalf of CRSBI, please accept our heartfelt thank you to all of you who wrote letters, sent emails and faxes, signed petitions, demonstrated, sent us donations and never gave up. Without our commitment, this historic event would not have taken place.

Committee to Return Silvia Baraldini to Italy, 3543 18th Street, #30, San Francisco, CA 94110 or PO Box 02-1140, Brooklyn, NY 11202. <http://www.justice-for-silvia.org/>  
WRITE TO SILVIA: SILVIA BARALDINI, VIA BARTOLO LONGO 92, 00156 ROMA, ITALY

## SILVIA'S STATEMENT

On Tuesday, August 24, 1999, after a brief court appearance I will board an Italian military plane and go back home fulfilling the objective that we have been pursuing for over ten years. This victory has been accomplished with the help and support of thousands of individuals who have backed the campaign without giving up; the various committees on both sides of the Atlantic greased the wheels, did the dirty work, and coordinated the various initiatives that pressured both governments to find a solution; my lawyers, Elizabeth Fink and Grazia Volo, negotiated brilliantly and never backed down in the face of obstinacy; and finally my family who has stood by me from the beginning, in particular my sister Marina who would have cheered the loudest at this outcome. To all I say thank you. Your solidarity kept me focused on our collective goal and encouraged me during my lowest moments.

On Tuesday, I will tell the residing magistrate that I accept the conditions imposed by the American government. They include staying in prison until March of 2008, being exempted from the furlough and work release programs available to Italian prisoners, and being incarcerated under similar conditions I experienced for seventeen years in the United States. Given these stringent limitations, why did I accept?

My primary goal has always been to reunite with my Mother. Now I will be held at Rebibbia, a prison forty-five minutes from her home. We will see each other weekly instead of once a year. I also wanted to make the move to Italy. Even as a prisoner, it represents a step toward the future and my life after prison. It's definitely time to move on.

My departure arrives at an interesting moment in the struggle to free political prisoners. Laura Whitehorn is free since August 6th, and Clinton recently offered a reduction of sentence to eleven of the Puerto Rican comrades. The obvious problems aside, this move by the White House represents a victory for all of those who have believed that the freedom of political prisoners will only be accomplished through vigorous mass political campaign.

While some individuals are being released, many remain incarcerated without any support or recognition. They have no release date and continue to be targeted by the 90s version of COINTELPRO. They deserve the same level of support you so generously extended to me. For reasons of history, I want to mention specifically: Susan Rosenberg, Sekou Odinga, Ray Levasseur, Tommy Manning, Marilyn Buck, Mutulu Shakur, David Gilbert, Albert "Nuh" Washington and Sundiata Acoli.

I have asked the committee to continue the web site. I hope to send periodic communications from Ribibbia (the prison in Rome). I have asked that the web site also be used to publicize the struggle to free other political prisoners.

In closing I want to remind everyone that Mumia Abu Jamal is fighting his most important battle to date for survival. We must all continue to mobilize to stop his execution. If nothing else, our joint battle to win my repatriation underscores that history comes to those who persevere, stick to clear objectives and take the high road.

Peace, Silvia

**OOPS!!! The envelopes for Commissary donation that were sent out with the June issue of Out of Time had the wrong address on them. If you sent us a check and did not receive a thank you, we did not receive your money. We're very sorry and please try again: Commissary Fund, 3543 18th Street, #30, San Francisco, CA 94110.**

## ANOTHER ATTICA DENIAL

In Aug 1971, governor nelson rockefeller authorized russell oswald, the corrections commissioner, to retake the prison that sits in Buffalo, N.Y. 42 prisoners and hostages were murdered when state troopers and the national guard retook the yard after a prison takeover that began because of the denial of basic human rights and inhumanities. After the shooting stopped, state officials grossly distorted reality. It has been described as "a bloody massacre" and a "willful police riot" and a "turkey shoot". For many of us Attica simply means the wholesale death at the hands of the state. It was and has continued to be a political issue where the state of new york refuses to accept responsibility for its "brutal acts of retaliation" as well as the murders committed. In early Aug '99 the us court of appeals for the 2nd circuit ordered yet another new trial for the only public official found liable for the crimes inflicted by the storm troopers.

For years, the question has not been what happened at Attica (the facts are indisputable) but who would be held accountable. Governors and attorney generals came and went; all unwilling to settle civil lawsuits brought by the prisoners 25 years ago. The courts did little to speed things along. To say that it crawled at a snail's pace would be an insult to snails.

Finally in 1992, a federal jury in Buffalo found the deputy warden liable for having been the over-seer of the cruelties committed as reprisals against the prisoners. Five years later, another jury followed up with a damages award of \$4 million to Frank 'Big Black' Smith. By previous agreement, the money was to be paid by the state. With an award that large, 'Black' said they were saying, "just because you're in prison, they can't beat you down like a dog and get away with it." .....that remains to be seen as this new denial overturns that award.....

A 3 judge panel of the u.s. court of appeals for the 2nd circuit sez the trial judge's instructions to the jury were "enigmatic" and improper and thus sends the case once again back to the lower courts. In other words, back to square one to start all over! what bullshit!! So, the questions remains.....will Attica ever be put to rest ???

Perhaps.....the appellate judges made it clear that they, too, were fed up with the endless delays of officials who "have done all they could" to leave this old wound untreated.....the pus continues to ooze..... Stripped of legal niceties, their message to the courts and to the state was the same as 'Black's' ..... "Enough already! I'd like to finally see a settlement. I'm sick and tired of this legal mumbo jumbo." Aren't we all ????



Supporters of Silvia Greet Her at Rebibbia Prison in Rome, August 24th.



# OUT OF TIME

## To Laura

Individually and collectively, the members of Out Of Control, Lesbian Committee to Support Women Political Prisoners, can hardly express to you Laura Whitehorn, our joy at retiring "22432-037"

Out Of Control formed in 1986 to work with others in shutting down the Lexington, Kentucky high security, prison unit. With the closure of the Lexington Control Unit, Out of Control's primary work evolved to supporting all the women political prisoners/Prisoners of War and fighting for their release.

Eventually we added "Lesbian" to our name. The change resulted from two emerging goals: (1) To make the liberation of the political prisoners a lesbian/gay issue. (2) To make it clear to the other forces in the movement that lesbians were in the struggle, that lesbians and gays had a rightful place in the struggle (and in the world), that it was a benefit to all liberation movements to have lesbians and gays involved, and to gain allies in the struggle for lesbian and gay liberation.

Laura you have been very special to Out Of Control because your conduct has embodied these goals. You have pressed your identity as a Lesbian in all of your actions as an anti-imperialist, an anti-racist, a revolutionary; laying the ground work for a liberated future in a world we all hope to create. We view this stance as particularly brave taken from your vulnerable position as a prisoner, needing all the support you could get. As a result we know you confronted and resisted homophobia.

Laura you have proved yourself a hero to OOC, time and again. We wish to applaud you for the very actions that

resulted in your incarceration. It's also so clear that imprisonment never dampened your revolutionary spirit. You persevered in refusing to let prison walls keep you from being a part of our movement: producing art, writing articles and statements, giving interviews, never saying no to our demands. (More often than not, as you will no doubt attest, on too short notice.) There have been times when we felt we weren't doing enough, like we could never do enough. You were always there with your enthusiasm, your unconditional love. At our tenth anniversary celebration you wrote us a love poem, "Ode to OOC." When we were re-evaluating OOC's work last year you sent a long letter reaffirming our contribution to the movement. It's so easy to feel hopeless and overwhelmed through all the backlash, but even locked away, you never wavered in your enthusiasm. If you could continue the struggle from inside, how could we not!

Laura we think you got guts and a lot of heart. OOC will tell anybody that Laura Whitehorn puts her life where her revolutionary line is. Finally and most importantly, good or bad, you can come up with a joke for any occasion.

Before closing, OOC wants to give major kudos to your girlfriend, Suzie Day. She's hung in under the most adverse conditions, steadfast in her love and commitment. We wish you and Susie lots of good times together. Our arms are wide open to welcome you back from behind prison walls. When you're ready we hope you'll continue to work with us, exchange with us, give us guidance, take guidance, until every last political prisoner is free

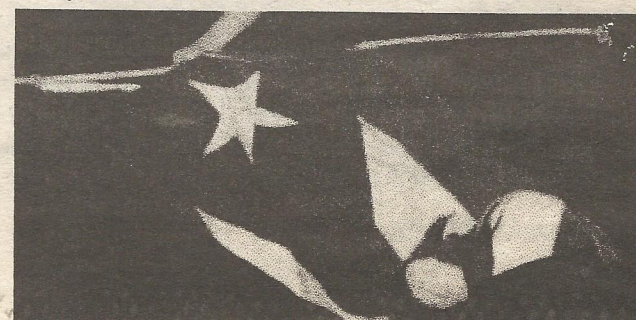


Laura and Karina, Carmen Valentin's Granddaughter

## Paaarrty!!!! Laura Whitehorn gets out

Lot's of reasons to celebrate these last few months, not the least of which is the release of our favorite Dyke From Hell..... Laura J. Whitehorn. Laura walked out those doors 8:30 am, August 6, 1999, after doing almost 15 years. There aren't any pictures of her actually walking out of the joint because the cops told us they would trash the cameras. It should be noted that a rainbow appeared moments before Laura - the heavens were happy. She was looking pretty snazzy in black pants, black shirt and a multi-colored vest quilted by none other than our other favorite Dyke From Hell, Linda Evans. A bunch of us were waiting for her - lots of hooting and kisses and hugs. Before turning her back on FCI Dublin, Laura displayed a banner for her sisters still inside. It read "Que Salgan Ya" and had all their names on it. We all stopped to carry on some more and take photos on the road just outside the prison. The party was just beginning. First stop was a Berkeley breakfast for close friends. Laura was so excited she could hardly eat the bagels and lox, but managed. Then off to San Francisco - to the Pacific Ocean. Lots of wet feet and Sand Dollars. The day would not be complete without a stop to pick up some Dim Sum .... A long held fantasy ... the ocean and shrimp dumplings. Laura had planned to take a nap - but once refreshed with shrimp dumplings, the nap wasn't necessary. Instead a live interview with KPFA, the local Pacifica radio station. Then off to a reception where about 100 fans showed up. Laura and her girlfriend, Suzie Day, slipped away a few hours later. One could only imagine????

But the celebration doesn't end there. A week later there was a party in New York with old friends showing up, friends Laura hadn't seen in years. (All of her lawyers showed up too.) Laura was very honored by those who came to welcome her back. Comrades with MOVE, Jericho, the Black Panther Collective, Pro Libertad the New Afrikan Liberation Front, Boston Women's Health Book Collective and a number of other organizations were represented. Mary Patten put together a slide show of Laura's art work and also stood in for OOC to read a statement we sent. There were many words of welcome including a message from David Gilbert. Then there was the presentation of T-Shirts. In fact Laura will never have to buy another T-Shirt.



Laura and Susie

## To OOC

I want to thank Out of Control for all your enthusiasm and generosity when you welcomed me on my release from prison.

You helped make the day a fantastic celebration, not just of my release, but of all the women political prisoners and of what we and you have accomplished together.

Thank you, too, for your wonderful message to the party in New York a week after my release. I especially appreciated your warm mention of Susie Day.

I love you all very much. I miss you.

We've got a good start. Free ALL political prisoners.

Venceremos,  
Laura Whitehorn

## LINDA TO LAURA

It's hard to believe you're really gone from us, Laura. For years now, my day has seemed empty, missing something intangible, if I didn't see you. We've nurtured our comradeship for more than three decades, felt our friendship grow and flower — and now I miss you so.

Who else will drag me outside to look at some nondescript speck of fuzz in the sky, swearing it's a comet? Who else will convince me to stand for an hour in five lines at the kitchen, only to end up with a plate of limp lettuce inedibly drowned in dressing? (Yet I leave convinced it was all worthwhile just because of your company.)

Who else will keep on cracking terrible jokes until finally I have to laugh, if just at your persistence? Who else will supply doggerel, rhyming lyrics and bad puns for birthday presents? and who else will interrupt day conversation just so you can rave on about the Knicks? Who else will think of helping me bathe with my broken arm —and supply the rubber ducky.

Where can I go now for hugs as strong as my own? Who else will truly understand the depth of my rage, my frustration, my sorrow — and the source of my tears? Who else will watch wildlife with me on the track at dusk, and show me how to find silence by walking on the grass?

Will our owls call for others in their flight? Who else still believes we can change the world? And who is courageous enough to keep trying, against all odds.

Oh Lorelei, you're so special to me, and our friendship so precious. A revolutionary & a communist, still and always — not only ideology, but in your life. Witness it in bones deep hatred for our enemy, and your heartfelt love for the crazy & oppressed people we live with. Witness it in your efforts to build unity amongst us, & to encourage the best in everyone. Witness it in your revolutionary and cockeyed optimism.

I strive to emulate you, my sister. My dearest comrade in arms, I love you always. You live in my heart. Momentarily sad as I may be, your freedom brings me the greatest joy — live it up! Venceremos, Linda Evans

**Who is the real terrorist?**  
**During the three weeks while the Puerto Rican POWs were deciding whether or not to accept Clinton's offer of clemency, the US government carried out an average of 40 attacks a day against Iraq.**



4